



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

28th October 2026



India's Infrastructural Investment Cycle : Avoiding Carbon Lock-in



CONTEXT: Amid UNEP warnings of imminent 1.5°C warming, India's upcoming investments in buildings, power, steel and cement will shape its long-term carbon emissions.

India's Upcoming Investment Cycle: Carbon Lock-in

Sector	Projected Expansion
Buildings	NITI Aayog: 86% of India's projected building stock in 2070
Urban infrastructure	Floor space - from 18 billion sq. m (2020) to 42 billion sq. m (2070).
Steel	Crude steel capacity - around 200 MT (2024-25) to 300 MT (2030-31).
Cement	Output - around 427 MT (2024) to 660 MT (2030).

India's Investment Cycle: A critical decision

A. Risk of Carbon Lock-in

- **Buildings:** Poor insulation and inefficient cooling systems - high electricity demand.
- **Industries:** Conventional steel and cement plants - carbon-intensive processes.
- **Power:** Inadequate transmission and storage - limit the benefits of investments in renewable.

B. Opportunity for Green Leapfrogging

- Energy-efficient buildings - reduce future cooling demand.
- Renewable-ready grids - reduce long-term fossil fuel dependence.
- Cleaner industrial processes - reduce future compliance costs and improve competitiveness.

Challenges facing India

High upfront capital costs	Clean infrastructure - greater initial investment despite long-term savings.
Technology uncertainty	Green hydrogen and large-scale industrial CCUS - expensive or commercially immature.
Regulatory gaps	Standards exist - weak implementation reduces their effectiveness.
Infrastructure bottlenecks	Inadequate transmission, storage and supporting networks - constrain clean technologies.
Limited green markets	Producers lack sufficient assured demand for low-carbon industrial products.
Financing risks	High borrowing costs and uncertain future revenues discourage private investment.
The Green Premium	Grid-scale renewable projects - 80% higher than in advanced economies.



CONTEXT: Amid UNEP warnings of imminent 1.5°C warming, India's upcoming investments in buildings, power, steel and cement will shape its long-term carbon emissions.

Way Forward

Policy Intervention	Suggestions
Strengthen regulations	Enforce energy-efficient building codes through construction approvals and occupancy certificates.
Integrated infrastructure planning	Coordinate renewable generation, transmission, storage and industrial electricity demand.
Green public procurement	Use government purchases of steel and cement to create demand for low-carbon materials.
Performance-based standards	Establish technology-neutral emissions-intensity thresholds for industrial products.
Carbon market development	Align industrial emissions targets with the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS).
Innovative climate finance	Use concessional loans, partial credit guarantees and payment-security mechanisms to reduce financing risks.
Support emerging technologies	Promote R&D and pilot projects for green hydrogen, CCUS and alternative industrial processes.
Centre-State coordination	Strengthen implementation of building regulations, industrial standards and supporting infrastructure.

Mains Practice Question

Q. "India's next investment cycle offers an opportunity to avoid carbon lock-in." Examine the sectoral risks and suggest measures for low-carbon development. (250 word / 15 Marks)



CONTEXT: Despite years of deliberations, India's proposed Integrated Theatre Commands remain stalled amid inter-service disagreements, raising concerns over military jointness and operational preparedness.

ITC vs Conventional Command

Dimension	Conventional Command Structure	Integrated Theatre Commands
Organisation	Separate commands for Army, Navy and Air Force	Unified command combining capabilities of multiple services
Command authority	Operational command through respective service chains	Unified operational command under a Theatre Commander
Planning	Predominantly service-specific, with inter-service coordination	Integrated operational planning
Resource utilisation	Assets managed primarily within individual services	Joint employment of resources according to theatre requirements
Operational approach	Coordination between services	Unified execution of military operations

Integrated Theatre Commands – Significance

- 1) Integrated Response to Modern Warfare** – facilitate unified planning and coordinated employment of capabilities.
- 2) Preparing for Multi-Domain Warfare** – provide a unified operational framework for integrating emerging military technologies.
- 3) Addressing India's Multi-Front Security Challenges** – Provide integrated operational responsibility for defined strategic theatres.
- 4) Faster Decision-Making and Operational Coordination** – Facilitates coordinated and shortened decision-making cycles.
- 5) Optimal Utilisation of Military Resources** – Can reduce duplication in infrastructure and support systems, improves operational efficiency.



CONTEXT: Despite years of deliberations, India's proposed Integrated Theatre Commands remain stalled amid inter-service disagreements, raising concerns over military jointness and operational preparedness.

Integrated Theatre Commands – Challenges

Air Force concerns	Permanently dividing limited fighter squadrons among geographical theatres could undermine the flexibility to concentrate air power where urgently required.
Army concerns	Ground operations require timely and assured air support, which must be guaranteed under the new arrangements.
Navy concerns	Maritime priorities and resources could be overshadowed by India's predominantly continental security challenges.
Inter-service differences	Disagreements over command authority, allocation of assets and operational doctrines complicate integration.
Resource limitations	Limited aircraft, surveillance assets and other critical capabilities constrain permanent allocation across multiple theatres.
Institutional challenges	Differences in training, organisational culture and command procedures make integration difficult.
Transition risks	Hasty restructuring without adequate operational preparation could affect military readiness.

Integrated Theatre Commands – Indias Progress

Initiative	Significance
Andaman and Nicobar Command (2001)	India's first integrated geographical tri-service command.
Strategic Forces Command (2003)	Joint command responsible for the operational management of strategic nuclear forces.
Creation of CDS and DMA (2019–20)	Established institutional leadership for jointness, integration and defence reforms.
Joint capability organisations (2018–19)	Defence Cyber Agency, Defence Space Agency and Armed Forces Special Operations Division.



CONTEXT: Despite years of deliberations, India's proposed Integrated Theatre Commands remain stalled amid inter-service disagreements, raising concerns over military jointness and operational preparedness.

Inter-Services Organisations Act, 2023	Strengthened command and disciplinary authority over personnel from different services within joint organisations.
Rules notified in 2025	Operationalised the legal framework for inter-services organisations.
Joint logistics initiatives	Operational joint logistics nodes at Mumbai, Guwahati and Port Blair.
<u>Integrated Theatre Commands – Way Forward</u>	
Political leadership	Establish clear strategic objectives and resolve inter-service disagreements through decisive civilian oversight.
Phased implementation	Introduce theatreisation gradually, supported by operational testing and periodic evaluation.
Flexible air-power management	Preserve the ability to concentrate scarce air assets across theatres while ensuring adequate local operational support.
Clear command responsibilities	Define the respective roles of Theatre Commanders, Service Chiefs and central military leadership.
Joint military doctrine	Develop common operational doctrines, joint training and integrated war-gaming exercises.
Integrated capabilities	Strengthen common communication networks, intelligence sharing, logistics and procurement planning.
India-specific model	Design theatre commands according to India's two-front security challenges, maritime interests and available military resources.

Mains Practice Question

Q. "Integrated Theatre Commands are essential for enhancing jointness among India's armed forces." Examine (250 word / 15 Marks)



Newspaper: The Indian Express
Page Number: 10

Not just welfare for elderly, Keralam needs silver economy

Silver Economy

- An **economic ecosystem** of goods, services and employment opportunities **catering to the ageing population (60+ years)**.
- Includes **healthcare, assisted living, age-friendly housing and transport, assistive technologies and lifelong learning**.

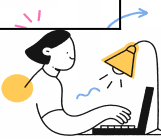
KERALAM IS ageing faster than most Indian states. People aged 60 and above accounted for around 15 per cent of the population in 2021; this is projected to reach 30 per cent by 2051, according to the International Institute of Migration and Development. Longer life expectancy is an achievement, but it raises questions about pensions, care and public finances. The challenge is not simply to support more older people, but to enable them to age with dignity, financial security and meaningful participation.

Need for Silver Economy

- **Rapid demographic ageing** – Preparing India for ageing
- **Growing care requirements** – home healthcare, physiotherapy, assisted living and accessible infrastructure.
- **Economic potential** – trained caregivers and healthcare workers.
- **Harnessing silver dividend** – mentoring, vocational training and community development.

Key Challenges

- **Financial insecurity:** Inadequate pensions, limited savings and rising healthcare expenditure.
- **Care deficit:** Shortage of affordable, accessible and quality elderly-care services.
- **Infrastructure gaps:** Mobility barriers, inaccessible housing and inadequate age-friendly public spaces.
- **Caregiver vulnerability:** Inadequate wages, training, social security and career progression.
- **Limited productive participation:** Older people's skills and experience remain underutilised.
- **Fiscal constraints:** Growing pressure on public finances to fund pensions, healthcare and long-term care.



Newspaper: The Indian Express
Page Number: 10

Way Forward: Developing the Silver Economy

Rights-based Approach	Implement Keralam's Senior Citizens Bill, 2026, ensuring protection against abuse, digital inclusion and legal assistance.
Localised Ageing Strategy	Panchayats and municipalities to prepare senior citizens' sub-plans based on local needs and vulnerabilities.
Care Infrastructure	Expand home-based care, day-care centres, assisted living and age-friendly transport.
Professionalise Caregiving	Ensure caregiver certification, fair wages, safe working conditions and social security.
Productive Ageing	Engage retired professionals in mentoring, skill development, start-ups and community initiatives.
Sustainable Financing	Ensure predictable budgetary allocations and establish the proposed State Reserve Fund.
Institutional Accountability	Department of Senior Citizens to set service standards, provide technical support and monitor implementation.



National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Regulatory Bodies

Newspaper: The Hindu ; Page Number: 12

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

- It is an **independent regulator** for **pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility** of medicines at affordable prices.
- Constituted in 1997 under the **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**

Functions of (NPPA)

- To implement and enforce the provisions of the **Drugs (Prices Control) Order**
- To **monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages**, and to **take remedial steps**.
- To **collect/ maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc.**

- To **recruit/ appoint the officers and other staff members of the Authority.**
- To **render advice to the Central Government on changes/ revisions in the drug policy.**
- To **render assistance to the Central Government in the parliamentary matters relating to drug pricing**
- To **fix and revising drug prices as per the provisions of the Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO)**
- NPPA provides **ceiling price to all drugs notified under Schedule-I of DPCO**



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Energy Security

Newspaper: The Indian Express; Page Number: 13

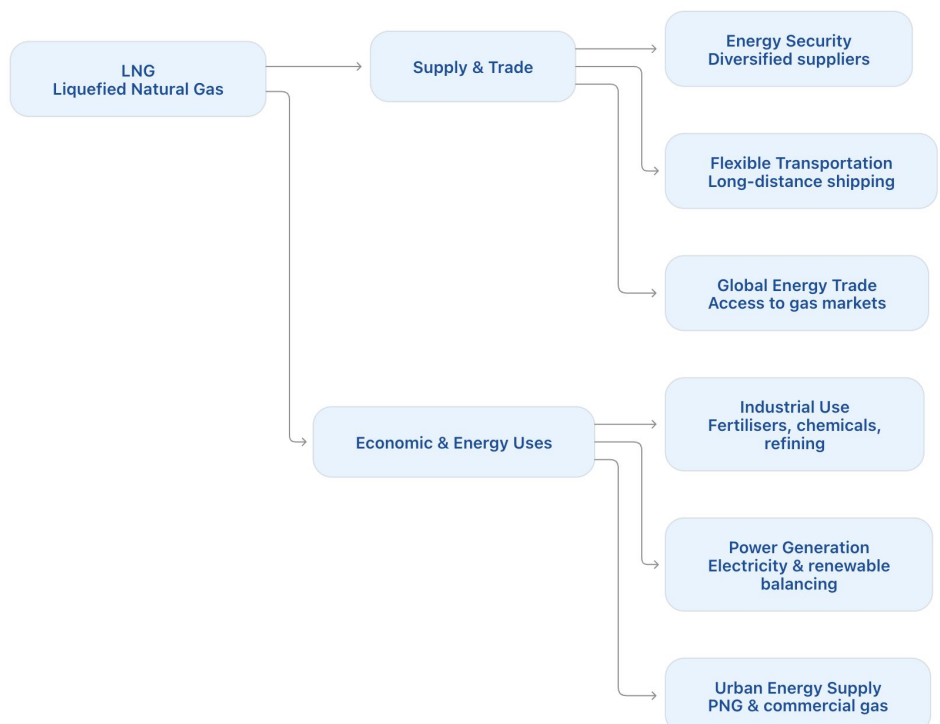
Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

- Natural gas converted into liquid - cooling (-161°C) at atmospheric pressure.
- **Composition** - Methane (CH_4), with small quantities of ethane, propane, butane and nitrogen
- **Liquefaction reduces natural gas to about 1/600th of its original volume** - large-scale transportation by specialised ships economically feasible.
- **Nature** - Colourless and Odourless in its liquid form.
- **LNG $\neq$ Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)** - (propane and butane)

Rank	Country
1	Qatar
2	United States
3	United Arab Emirates
4	Oman
5	Nigeria
6	Angola

Environmental Concerns Associated

- **Methane leakage:** During natural gas production, processing, transportation, LNG shipping and regasification.
- **Energy-intensive liquefaction:** Converting natural gas into LNG requires substantial energy.
- **Shipping emissions:** Long-distance transportation adds to the overall lifecycle emissions of LNG.
- **Fossil-fuel dependence:** Continued investment in LNG infrastructure can prolong dependence on fossil fuels.
- **Boil-off gas:** Small quantity can evaporate during storage and transportation
- **Infrastructure lock-in:** Large LNG terminals and associated infrastructure long operating lifetimes - compatibility with long-term decarbonization goals



Central Board of Film Certification



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Statutory Bodies
Newspaper: The Hindu; Page Number: 08

Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)

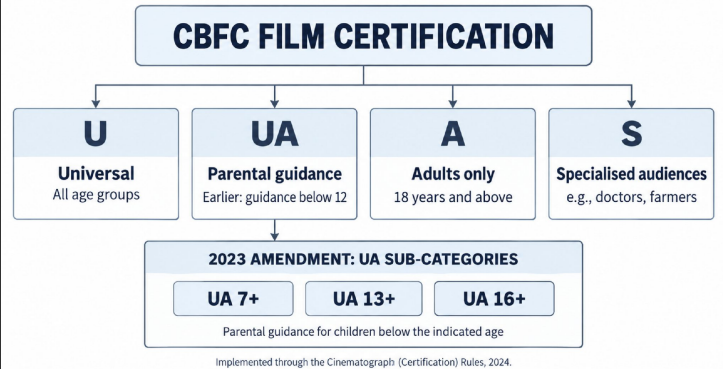
- **Statutory body** under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
- The Censor Board – functions mainly as a certification authority.

It works under:

- Cinematograph Act, 1952
- Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983
- Guidelines issued by the Central Government

Role and Structure of CBFC

- It regulates the public exhibition of films in India. **No film can be released publicly without CBFC certification.**



- Headed by a **Chairperson, with 12–25 members** appointed by the Central Government.
- It operates through **nine regional offices**: Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Cuttack, and Guwahati.
- **Supported by Advisory Panels** (nominated by the Government for two-year terms) to assist in film examination



SCO Civilisation Dialogue Forum



SYLLABUS: Prelims: Important International Institutions and Fora
Newspaper: The Indian Express; Page Number: 01 / 02

Key Facts About the Forum

- **Proposed** : India - 25th SCO Summit 2025 - Tianjin, China.
- **First host**: India (2026).
- **Nature**: A cultural and people-to-people dialogue initiative under the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- **Objective**: Promote civilisational understanding and exchanges in art, literature, traditions and cultural heritage.
- **Significance**: Expands SCO cooperation beyond security and economics into cultural diplomacy.
- **Organizers**: The Ministry of Culture will partner with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)



Q1. 'X', addressing a seminar on climate policy, argued that since India is investing heavily in solar and wind generation, the issue of carbon emissions from the power sector is effectively solved. 'Y' countered that without adequate transmission and storage infrastructure, the benefits of these renewable investments are severely limited, leading to curtailment and continued reliance on fossil fuels for grid stability.

Based on the above, select the correct conclusion:

- a) Both 'X' and 'Y' are correct.
- b) 'X' is correct because generation capacity is the sole determinant of decarbonization.
- c) The view of only 'Y' is correct.
- d) The view of 'Y' that grid infrastructure limits renewable benefits is not correct.

Answer: c

Q2. Which one of the following statements correctly distinguishes the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) from the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)?

- a) SFC is a geographical command established in 2001, whereas ANC is a functional command established in 2003.
- b) SFC is responsible for operational management of strategic nuclear forces, whereas ANC is a geographical tri-service command.
- c) SFC falls under the Department of Military Affairs, whereas ANC falls directly under the Ministry of External Affairs.
- d) SFC manages joint logistics nodes, whereas ANC manages nuclear deterrence.

Answer: b

Q3. In what way(s) does the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority's function to "monitor availability and identify shortages" represent a structural evolution beyond mere price control?

- 1. By recognising that affordable pricing is meaningless if drugs are physically unavailable in the market.
- 2. By integrating supply chain surveillance with price regulation to prevent artificial scarcity-induced black marketing.
- 3. By transferring the responsibility of drug manufacturing entirely to public sector undertakings.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b

Q4. Identify the energy carrier based on the following information:

- 1. It is produced by cooling natural gas to -161°C at atmospheric pressure.
- 2. Its volume is reduced to approximately 1/600th of its gaseous state.
- 3. It is primarily composed of Methane (CH_4).
- 4. It is frequently confused with LPG but is chemically and physically distinct.

- a) Compressed Natural Gas
- b) Liquefied Petroleum Gas
- c) Synthetic Natural Gas
- d) Liquefied Natural Gas

Answer: d

Q5. Consider the following stages in the CBFC certification process:

- 1. Submission of film application to a regional office.
- 2. Examination by viewing committee assisted by Advisory Panel members.
- 3. Recommendation forwarded to the Chairperson/Board for decision.
- 4. Issuance of certificate enabling public exhibition.

Which of the following sequences correctly represents the chronological order?

- a) $1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4$
- b) $2 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4$
- c) $1 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4$
- d) $1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3$

Answer: a





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